

Appl. No. 10/696,812
Examiner: James M Hewitt, Art Unit 3679
In response to the Office Action dated September 12, 2005

Date: September 21, 2005
Attorney Docket No. 10111396

REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action mailed on April 6, 2005 in the above-referenced application, Applicant respectfully requests amendment of the above-identified application in the manner identified above and that the patent be granted in view of the arguments presented. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Present Status of Application

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Horvath (U.S. Patent No. 4,707,027). Claims 2-3 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

In this paper, claim 1 is amended as described in further detail below. Claims 2-3 are amended to correct typographical errors. New claims 4-20 are added. The summary is amended to correspond with the claims as amended. Support for the amendments and new claims can be found in the original claims, on page 13, line 13 to page 14, line 24 of the specification, and in Figs. 8A-8C. Thus, on entry of this amendment, claims 1-20 are pending.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and the remarks contained below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Horvath. To the extent that the grounds of the rejections may be applied to the claims now pending in this application, they are respectfully traversed.

As amended, claim 1 recites an inflatable product including, *inter alia*, a first valve through which the air pump inflates and deflates a first chamber; a first switch structure, connected to the first valve, wherein ***the first valve is mechanically opened by the first switch structure***; a second valve through which the air pump inflates and deflates a second chamber; a second

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switch structure, connected to the second valve, wherein ***the second valve is mechanically opened by the second switch structure***; wherein the air pump has a first pair of electrodes and a second pair of electrodes, the air pump operating in a first direction for inflating air through the first or second valve when the first pair of electrodes contact each other, the air pump operating in a second reverse direction opposite to the first direction for deflating air through the first or second valve when the second pair of electrodes contacts each other; and wherein the first switch structure and the second switch structure operate the pump by controlling the first pair of electrodes and the second pair of electrodes.

To anticipate a claim, a reference must teach every element of the claim. In this regard, the Federal Circuit has held:

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

"The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Horvath does not teach or suggest a first valve that is mechanically opened by a first switch structure, or a second valve that is mechanically opened by a second switch structure, as recited in claim 1.

Horvath teaches a pneumatically cushioned vehicle seat and apparatus and method of adjusting the same. In Horvath, solenoid valves 16, 18, and 20 are ***electrically controlled by switches 22, 24*** to fill and evacuate cushions. See column 2, line 61 to column 4, line 40 and Figs. 2-3 of Horvath.

As Horvath fails to teach a first valve that is ***mechanically opened*** by a first switch structure or a second valve that is mechanically opened by a second switch structure, as recited in claim 1.

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It is therefore Applicant's belief that claim 1 is allowable over the cited reference. Insofar as claims 2-3 depend from claim 1, it is Applicant's belief that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

New Claims

New claim 4 recites an inflatable product, including a first chamber, a first valve through which the air pump inflates the first chamber, an air pump for inflating the first chamber through the first valve, a first switch structure, connected to the first valve, wherein ***the first valve is mechanically opened by the first switch structure***, a second chamber, a second valve through which the air pump inflates the second chamber, a second switch structure, connected to the second valve, wherein ***the second valve is mechanically opened by the second switch structure***, wherein the air pump has a fan and motor for inflating air through the first or second valve, wherein the first switch structure and second switch structure controls the pump to operate.

As noted in connection with claim 1, Horvath does not teach or suggest at least an inflatable product comprising a first and second valve that are ***mechanically*** opened by a first and second switch structure, respectively.

New claim 11 recites an inflatable product comprising a pack having a first vent opened and closed by a first valve, a second vent opened and closed by a second valve, and a third vent in communication with the ambient, a first chamber in communication with the first vent, a second chamber in communication with the second vent, an air pump pumping air into the pack through the third vent when activated in a first direction, and out of the pack through the third vent when activated in a second direction, a first switch structure movable between a first orientation and a second orientation, the first orientation opening the first valve and activating the air pump in the first direction to inflate the first chamber, and the second orientation closing the first valve, a second switch structure movable between a third orientation and a fourth orientation, the third orientation opening the second valve and activating the air pump in the second direction to deflate the second chamber, and the fourth orientation closing the second valve, and a ***driving element impelling the second switch structure to the fourth orientation when the first switch structure is moved to the first orientation while the***

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second switch structure is in the third orientation, such that the first and second switch structures cannot be respectively in the first and third orientations simultaneously.

Horvath does not teach or suggest at least an inflatable product comprising a first switch structure movable between a first orientation and a second orientation, a second switch structure movable between a third orientation and a fourth orientation, and a ***driving element*** impelling the second switch structure to the fourth orientation when the first switch structure is moved to the first orientation while the second switch structure is in the third orientation, ***such that the first and second switch structures cannot be respectively in the first and third orientations simultaneously.***

Applicant submits that the prior art fails to teach or suggest an inflatable product with the features recited in new claims 4 and 11. For at least this reason, it is Applicant's belief that claims 4 and 11 are allowable over the cited references. Insofar as claims 5-10 and 12-20 respectively depend from claims 4 and 11 either directly or indirectly, and therefore incorporate all of the limitations of claims 4 and 11, it is Applicant's belief that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant notes that an information disclosure statement was filed on May 27, 2005. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate that he has considered the information disclosed in the statement by returning a copy of the Form PTO-1449 submitted with the information disclosure statement with appropriate marks beside each listed reference.

Prior Art in Earlier Application

This application is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/886,030. The Examiner is reminded to consider the prior art cited in the parent application. MPEP 609 and 2001.06(b).

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Conclusion

The Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests so.

Respectfully submitted,



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